

LETHOCERUS MAYR, 1853 (INSECTA, HEMIPTERA,
BELOSTOMATIDAE);
PROPOSED CONSERVATION IN PLACE OF *ILIASTUS*
GISTEL [1847].
Z.N.(S.) 2161

By Arnold Menke (*Systematic Entomology Laboratory USDA,
c/o U.S. National Museum, Washington D.C. 20560 U.S.A.*)

The purpose of this petition is to ask the Commission to use its plenary powers to suppress for purposes of priority the generic name *Iliastus* Gistel [1847] so that continued usage of the well-known giant water bug genus *Lethocerus* Mayr, 1853 will be maintained.

2. *Iliastus* was published in two different books with identical entomological textual content: Gistel (1848 :149, reprinted 1851) and Gistel [1847] in Gistel & Bromme ([1847]-1850: 490). Apparently the insect part of the latter work has priority. Both Sherborn's "Index Animalium" and Neave's "Nomenclator Zoologicus" cite *Iliastus* as [1847] in Gistel & Bromme although only the date 1850 appears on the title page. In any case, the name predates *Lethocerus* Mayr by several years. In the two Gistel works the wording of the belostomatid sections is identical. *Iliastus* is mentioned within his treatment of the genus *Belostoma*: "Hieher *Iliastus* (mihi) *grandis*, eine *Nepa*, unbekannt woher (in meiner Sammlung). 3" lang und 1 1/2" breit (eigens zu beschreiben [it never was]). Die grösste Wanze die ich je gesehen." This appears on: 149 of the 1848 work and on :490 of the [1847] work. Although *Iliastus* is cited under the general heading of *Belostoma*, it is not clearly a manuscript name cited in synonymy, especially since it is separately indexed and preceded there by an asterisk indicating that it is a new taxon.

3. The association of the name *Nepa grandis*, the well-known (even in those days) Linnean giant water bug, with the name *Iliastus*, makes it the type-species by monotypy. Thus, the availability and identity of *Iliastus* is assured. Linnaeus' *grandis*, described in 1758 in *Nepa*, is a member of the belostomatid genus currently known as *Lethocerus*.

4. As I have already pointed out elsewhere (Menke, 1976:169), Gistel's generic name has gone unused since it was published except for its inclusion in nomenclators such as "Index Animalium," "Nomenclator Zoologicus" and Schulze, Kukenthal

et al. "Nomenclator Animalium Gernerum et Subgenerum." *Lethocerus*, on the other hand, has been used by many authors in a variety of papers (taxonomic, biological, morphological, physiological etc.) since Kirkaldy (1908:164) noted its priority over other names. Furthermore, *Lethocerus* is the type-genus of the subfamily LETHOCERINAE (Lauck & Menke, 1961:646). To satisfy the requirements of Art. 79(b) the following authors are cited as proof of this widespread usage of *Lethocerus*: Hungerford (1920:148), Möller (1921:43), De Carlo, (1930:196, 1964:337), Hoffmann (1931:661), Cummings (1933:198), Rankin (1935:479), Picado (1937:303), Herring (1951:157), Menke (1960:285, 1963:261), Lauck & Menke (1961:647), Brooks & Kelton (1967:38), Parsons (1968:349), Tawfik (1970:299), Popov (1971:112) and Nieser (1975:120). This list is by no means exhaustive.

5. In view of the foregoing the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take the following action:

- (1) Use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Iliastus* Gistel [1847] and 1848 (as well as the 1851 reprint) for the purposes of the Law Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) Place the following name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Lethocerus* Mayr, 1853, (gender masculine), type-species *Lethocerus cordofanus* Mayr, 1853, by monotypy;
- (3) Place the following name on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *cordofanus* Mayr, 1853, as published in the binomen *Lethocerus cordofanus* (the specific name of the type-species of *Lethocerus* Mayr, 1853);
- (4) Place the following generic name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology;
 - (a) *Iliastus* Gistel, [1847], 1848 and 1851, (Suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above).

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